REMARKS

By this preliminary amendment, claims 1-12 have been canceled and claims 13-18 added. Thus, claims 13-18 are active. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at least at column 21, lines 27-30, column 23, line 32 to column 24, line 27, column 29, lines 7-9, column 48, lines 6-15, and 31-44, column 52, lines 56-65, column 52, lines 56-65, and in Figs. 24, 58, 61, 62, 68, 156, 159, and 170.

As indicated in the above amendment to the specification, this application is a reissue application of U.S. Patent No. 5,600,672, and a divisional application of reissue application No. 09/244,037, which is also a reissue application of U.S. Patent No. 5,600,672. Further, it is the Patentees' intention to file further divisional reissue applications of U.S. Patent No. 5,600,672. When all such applications are filed and serial numbers are assigned thereto, the specifications of each of the applications will be amended to cross reference each of the other applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al.

//effrey R./Fil/pek

Registration No.41,471
Agent for Patentees

JRF/fs WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P. 2033 K St., N.W., Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20006 Telephone (202) 721-8200

September 29, 2000